

S E C R E T

Approved For Release 2003/08/18 : CIA-RDP83B00100R000100030016-6

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

23 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment  
FROM: [REDACTED]  
National Intelligence Officer for China  
SUBJECT: SCC Meeting on Sino-Vietnam Conflict  
and Related Issues

Action Requested: Review the attached talking points for use at the SCC meeting scheduled for 23 February at 1500 hours. These talking points update the military situation in Kampuchea and along the Sino-Vietnam border, and also address Soviet reactions.

Attachment:  
Talking Points

cc: DDCI

DERIVATIVE CL BY [REDACTED]  
REVIEW ON 23 Feb 1999  
DERIVED FROM B9c,d

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SUBJECT: SCC Meeting on Sino-Vietnam Conflict and  
Related Issues

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MILITARY SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Occasionally heavy fighting taking place throughout much of Kampuchea

- Pol Pot's resistance forces have regrouped and using guerrilla tactics against stronger Vietnamese
- Kampucheans have temporarily retaken several provincial capitals and towns defeating Vietnamese divisions
- Kampucheans have destroyed most bridges and interdicted roads to isolate Vietnamese units and chew them up

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- Kampuchean resistance is strongest in the south and southwest but also active in all other sectors

- Kampucheans move at will and even able to enter Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kompong Cham, and other towns

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- Some Chinese supplies still getting through and Kampucheans steal Vietnamese weapons and supplies

Vietnamese forces include at least 16 main force infantry divisions supported by armored, artillery, and air defense units

- Vietnam has more than 150,000 combat troops inside Kampuchea
- More than half ground combat forces in Kampuchea -- 16 to 18 of 31 main force divisions
- Vietnamese forces are road-bound and not mounting successful sweep operations in jungle sanctuaries of resistance forces

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- Vietnamese control all major cities and towns but having difficulty extending control to the countryside

-- Vietnamese reportedly afraid to leave towns at night because Kampuchians control countryside

-- Vietnamese checkpoints unable to differentiate civilians and resistance troops because all wear same black pajamas

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[redacted] reports indicate some Vietnamese units are withdrawing from Kampuchea because of Sino-Vietnamese conflict

[redacted]

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- Collection against Kampuchea has declined somewhat because of higher priority for data on Sino-Vietnamese fighting

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MILITARY SITUATION ALONG SINO-SOVIET BORDER

No evidence of a Soviet or a Chinese military buildup along their common border but each side is wary of the other

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Military balance along the Sino-Soviet frontier favors the Soviets who have 44 divisions, 450,000 troops, and 12,000 tanks deployed close to border

- Soviet forces have far more mobility and firepower than Chinese and could mount wide range of limited military operations with little warning or buildup
- China has about 98 divisions, 1.7 million troops, and 5,000 tanks in military regions opposite Soviet Union, but they are well back from the frontier

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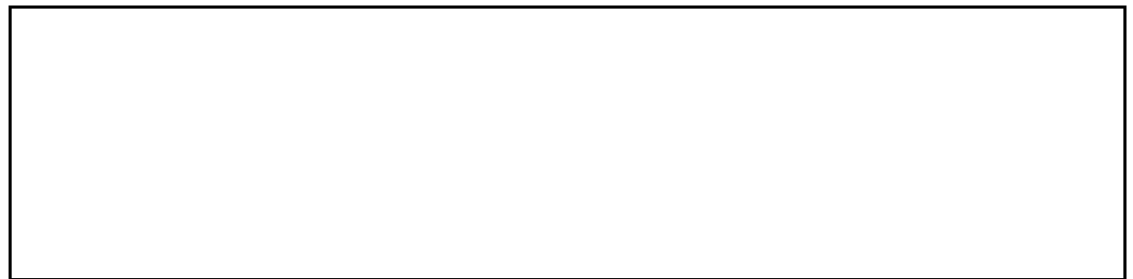
Soviets are also keeping a close watch on developments in Indochina

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Soviets have stepped up their deliveries of war materiel to Vietnam

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MILITARY SITUATION CHINA-VIETNAM

Intense fighting continues at several points near the border

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- Both sides appear to be regrouping and consolidating

Major battle may be in offing near Lang Son in the northeast

- Chinese forces pressured this area and forced civilians to evacuate
- Chinese infantry, artillery, and armoured units converging on town

- [redacted] increased military activity on Chinese side of the frontier
- Chinese have emplaced field artillery on hilltops north of Lang Son and heavy barrages began today
- Chinese 55th Army massed in area and still fresh

- [redacted] additional infantry divisions and other units along northeastern border

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- Divisions probably represent units drawn from the 43rd Army and perhaps several armies garrisoned in central and southeastern China

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- Total of at least 12 infantry divisions along Vietnam's northeastern border and only half of them have seen action

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- Vietnam is also building up its forces in the Lang Son area

- Thousands of reinforcements reportedly moving south 25X1

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Vietnamese military convoys and artillery moving north on road to Lang Son

- Vietnamese have dug extensive defensive bunkers and trenches, added additional antiaircraft gun positions, and emplaced 130-mm field guns near town 25X1

[REDACTED]

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- Vietnam also building up air power in north

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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